**Happy New Year to all Fringfordians from the Parish Council.**

**A time for reflection……..**

We’ve taken the opportunity over the festive break to take a quick look back at the Fringford Village Plan 2016 and reflect on what our whole community has achieved. The world has certainly changed since 2016 when that plan was formulated for villagers by villagers. We came through the tail-spin of the “pandemic period” that put many things on hold causing delays to projects and life in general.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What the 2016 village plan said** | **What our community has achieved together** |
| Tackle speeding through the village | √ Set up 20’s plenty campaign.  √ Electronic visual speed awareness signs at the entrances to the village. |
|  | √ Village gates on Stratton Audley Road.  √ Costed the same for Fringford Road. |
| Improve the Village Green and surrounding area | √ Improve the verges – project set up for summer 2024. |
|  | √ Improve parking areas - project set up for summer 2024. |
|  | √ Tidying up the pond area – project underway for Spring 2024. |
|  | √ Improved children’s play area in 2018.  √ ROSPA safety audit and actions undertaken.  √ Low boughs on the trees cut back. |
|  | √ Renovated the old stone wall and re-seeded verge.  √ Commissioned an iconic village sign to be positioned on The Green. |
| Better environment | √ Management of trees with landowners.  √ Active volunteer litter picking group.  √ Installed 2 new dog waste bins. |
| Village Hall | √ Active Village Hall Committee to manage the use of the excellent facilities, maximize the income to ensure the hall is well used and well maintained for the benefit of villagers.  √ Obtained a 50% funding grant to replace the village hall roof on the original part of the building. Works planned for Spring 2024. |
| More social events | √ Continued Autumn or Spring Fayres.  √ Continued Annual Beer Festival.  √ Church monthly coffee mornings.  √ Bi-annual open gardens 2-day event.  √ Ad-hoc commemorative events.  √ Volunteers created the Candleford Drop Inn pop-up pub to cover when the pub is closed.  √ Monthly coffee mornings organized by the Church.  √ Village Sewical.  √ Look at ways to support the future of the Butchers Arms pub |
| Avoid large scale housing developments | √ Successfully objected to 10 house development proposed for Fringford Cottage site on Main Street.  √ Successfully objected to 10 house development proposed for land off Rectory Lane site off Crow Lane.  √ Provided feedback to ensure that Fringford is re-catagorised as a smaller village in Cherwell District Council housing strategy. |
| Better communication | √ Delivered project to upgrade to fibre-optic Broadband.  √ Continued The Village Voice bi-monthly newsletter.  √ Continued the village mutual support Whatsapp group. |
| Improve neighbourly care | √ Volunteer group Fringford Friends was set up and successfully operated to assist any residents during times of need. |

My grateful thanks go to everybody, past and present, that helped to achieve all of this!!

**A time for looking forward…..**

Fringford is a great village, so most importantly, the Parish Council is now looking to co-ordinate a refresh of the Fringford Village Plan so that we have a plan of what villagers’ think are the top (realistic) priorities that will benefit our community going forward. To do this we’re going to need everybody’s help please. Engaging with villagers will be the next step over the next month or so and to help us do this will be Magda and Jack Charlton from an organisation called Research Oxford . More information to follow.

**Proposed Engagement process**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Feb/March 2024** | **April-May 2024** | **June 2024** |
| **Village survey with opportunity to give feedback** | **Other qualitative research undertaken** | **Survey results and Draft 2024 Village plan feedback event** |

Ginny Hope

Chair

On behalf of Fringford Parish Council.